

SISTERS' DEPARTMENT.

Orphans Endowment Fund.

The O. E. F. now aggregates \$39. I imagine I hear deep sighs from many of the brethren and sisters who are interested in our efforts, but discouraged at the slow growth of the Fund. Yes it is rather discouraging, especially to those of us who have given it our time, efforts and prayers. But though we have been discouraged because of the indifference, carelessness, and lack of cooperation on the part of some of those who have received our Circle Letters, yet we have had many prompt and encouraging responses. A number of dollar donations have been received, and one dear young Sister in New Jersey sent us a two dollar note. A sister in Missouri, who responded promptly to a Circle letter wrote, 'I hope to help you more in the future, and in order to do so am going to adopt the mite-box plan; I will put into it a penny a day and send it to you at the end of six months. A worthy example which I wish others would follow.'

Sister Susie Robison of Masontown, Pa., has also set a worthy example. Having received a bunch of fifteen letters, she superintended their division and subdivision, then collected them together again and returned them to me in one envelope, together with the contributions, aggregating two dollars. Sister M. M. Sterling, that noble, tireless Christian worker did the same and Sister Mollie Fahrney of Downsville, Md. will also soon send me a completed circle. If many others who receive bunches of fifteen letters would do likewise, we might have many completed circles where now we have broken ones. Are there not some young brethren and sisters who desire to work for Christ and who would be willing to work for him in this way? We should like to have our young people become workers for Jesus, and we think this would be quite a good way to begin.

But we don't want only the young people interested in this work. We want every brother and sister to be interested in it and to show that interest by helping to push the work. A brother recently said to me "Sister Laura, I am in sympathy with your efforts to endow an Orphan's Home". "Well, Brother—" I replied, "I wish you would show your sympathy by responding to the circle letters you have received."

May our Father help us all to show our sympathy our faith and our love; not by mere words, but by works.

LAURA E. N. GROSSNICKLE.
Mapleville, Md., Sept. 2, 1889.

She Wanted to Die.

In obituaries we often see this sentence "she wanted to die" or "she did not wish to get well" or something of this kind. Now is it because those persons were so good that it was their desire to depart this life and try the realities of another? or is it something else. It is most generally written in such a way that the reader would naturally suppose they were "just too good to live" and therefore wished to die. I have grave doubts about this thing. I do not find in all the Scriptures a case where a good person was anxious to die more so than to live. Let us begin with the only positively good in all Scripture and history. Was Christ anxious to die? He was willing, that is true. He was willing under the circumstances but was he anxious? It does not appear that he was. He prayed "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Christ came to do the will of his Father, and in every instance and with perfect exactness he did what he came to do. He was not like Saul who said and done not Saul said "I have performed the commandment of the Lord" but had he done so? Had he done God's will fully? No: only in part. Just like many of today. They follow God, not as Christ, but as Saul the king who was rejected for his disobedience. Christ was oftentimes tired after toiling. He lost some of his disciples. Some of them went back and did not follow him, one of them, one of the twelve denied that he knew him and one betrayed him into the hands of sinners. Of course this was afterwards, but he knew how it would be. He knew it all, still he said "if it be possible let this cup pass from me." We conclude that he was not anxious to die.

Paul said to depart this life was better for him, but he was willing to stay on account of the good he might do others. So we conclude that Paul was not anxious to die. He did not consider himself too good to live, nor do the people these days consider themselves so, but still some do not wish to live. There must be some reason for it, some cause, what is it? Is it not sin? Do you suppose people might become so sinful that they would rather die than live? Generally they who are the most sinful are the ones who are most afraid of death. There was recently a lady died who for years, whenever she was sick which was frequently, would express herself in the language as above. She would say she did not like to leave her little children, but still she did not wish to get well. I have not seen her obituary. If there is one I suppose it runs something like this:—A dear sister de-

parted this life in full assurance of the life beyond. She has suffered much, has been a great sufferer in the flesh. She was willing and anxious to die. This is truth as far as it goes, but it only goes far enough to blind people. Kind and honest reader just leave me finish this notice, in too many cases such notices might be finished in the same way. She suffered it is true, but what caused much of it? Was it not the irregular appetite of her husband? But hush! utter it not. Smooth it over, hide the truth. Would any one suppose a woman living with her family would desire to be taken away from them on account of the necessary or common sufferings of life. No, no one would think such a thing and yet we pass by such notices and do not suspect the truth because of the ingenious way in which they are gotten up. Now I do not wish to blame any one for dissimulation but such things are too plain to those who will not be blinded. At our Beatrice Chautauqua they had two prominent speakers, Mr. McIntyre from Chicago and Mr. Jones from Georgia. In one of the speeches of the first named gentleman he spoke of the ladies of America being the most highly favored women in the world. In Mr. Jones' next speech he said when he heard his honorable colleague utter such language he only wished in his heart that it was true. Then he went on and said, "we men of America get upon the hearts of our wives and mothers with both feet and we crush all the life blood out of them." Is it truth? We cannot shut our eyes to it and though it was a temperance lecture, and alcohol was the king evil, is it only drunkards who do such things? Not by any means. It is intemperance and excess which cause men, fathers, husbands to do such but not always intemperance in drinking. This is a serious subject. I do not like to write about such things but I must do it. I cannot rest easy unless I do. And although I am a great sleeper I am at this moment burning the midnight oil in hopes that my feeble pen may weigh on the side of right and justice, and do its share of the work that is to be done in the nation, if it is to be saved from intemperance, excess, and ruin.

Alcohol is a deadly poison, and we cannot work too earnestly against the manufacture and the use of it, but it is not the only evil which we are called upon to cry down. The irregularities which killed the wife and mother is, if the physicians books tell the truth, more prevalent, and we do not need to depend wholly upon those books, we have only to open our eyes and behold the amount of suffering

around us caused by sensuality. And must the rising generation hear nothing, know nothing, and rush ignorantly onward, filling up the fallen ranks among us? Let us say to false modesty, stand thou there until we plant true ways into the hearts and minds of the young men and women of America. We have no time to kill just now. The sin of intemperance in its different forms must be held up before us, a nation, a brotherhood and a sisterhood, and let us fight it with both hands well equipped that we may be found like Christ walking truly and fully in the right paths. But if we are indifferent to these things our lot will be found with the weak and sinful king Saul who was disobedient in some things and was rejected by his heavenly Father who had chosen him to be king over Israel.

MARY C. MILLER.
Pickrell, Neb.

La Paz, Ind.

The church is in as healthy a condition here as you will find and working for the Master. We are gaining ground which makes us rejoice in the Lord.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

Bro. Palmer is laboring hard and earnestly for us and may the Lord abundantly bless him is my prayer.

MARY ABBOTT.

Maple Grove Church, Ind.

By request of the Brethren, Bro. Summers visited us on Sept. 1st. He gave us three able sermons, which did us all good. We were all hungry for the bread of life. Bro. Summers is an able talker and worthy of all praise. May he live long and prosper and grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, that he may call sinners to repentance.

Our quarterly council meeting was held Sept. 3rd. Bro. George Rench was on hand as usual with his good council and advice. He had been absent the past few weeks, attending College at Lebanon, Ohio. He has long been missed, but again fills his place as pastor by request of the Brethren of Maple Grove. May the Lord bless his efforts to the upbuilding of God's kingdom.

We have Sunday School every Sunday morning, prayer meeting every Saturday evening when there is no preaching.

We ask an interest in the prayers of the faithful that great good may be done at this place.

MARY RENCH.
SHIDLER, IND., SEPT. 6, 1889.

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